

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

DeFoor Soil Mine

2. Name of applicant:

Dale DeFoor

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

800 Indian Lake Drive
Ellensburg, WA 98926

4. Date checklist prepared:

August 18, 2008

5. Agency requesting checklist:

W.S. Department of Natural Resources

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

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Soil extraction activities will occur until material is depleted or there is no longer a market on an as needed basis. The resource is expected to last up to 20 years. Three mining segments have been identified and shown on the maps included in the SM-8 application packet. Reclamation will occur following the completion of final extraction activities in the individual mining segments.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

At this time no expansion or additional activity is contemplated. Any future development activities will comply with laws and regulations in existence at the time of application.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

There is no known environmental information that has been or will be prepared directly related to this proposal, unless otherwise required by the W.S. Department of Natural Resources.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No governmental approvals have been identified as being required for this project.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

No governmental approvals have been identified as being required for this project.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The proposed activity includes the removal of soil from property owned by the applicant. The proposal includes approximately 101 acres, of which 77.60 acres will be disturbed through mining activities. Soil is the primary product removed from the subject property. Soil and subsoil are approximately 10 to 15 feet deep and mining activities will not occur below 10 feet in depth. Each of the separate mining segments will be active a minimum of three times during the course of the project. Segments will be stripped of soil to a depth of five feet and then covered with 5 to 6 inches of amendments, tilled to a depth of two feet and seeded with wheat. After the soil additives decompose (four to five years) the mining segment will be stripped a second time to a depth of 2 to 3 feet. The segment will then be covered with 5 to 6 inches of amendments, tilled to a depth of two feet and seeded with wheat. After the soil additives decompose (four to five years) the mining segment will be stripped a third time to a depth of 2 to 3 feet. Final reclamation activities will then be initiated. It should be noted, no petroleum contaminated soils will be imported to the site.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The subject property is located north of Interstate 90 and south of the John Wayne Trail in portions of Sections 8,

16, and 17, Township 17 N, Range 20 E W.M. approximately 4 miles east of the City of Kittitas.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): **Flat, rolling**, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The subject property slopes gently at approximately 5 percent.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

In general, the soils on the subject property are floodplain, silt and alluvial in nature.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

There is no surface history or other evidence of unstable soils over the majority of the property.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

The proposed mining activity will remove approximately 60,000 to 90,000 cubic yards of soil from the subject property. Segments will be stripped of soil to a depth of five feet and then covered with 5 to 6 inches of amendments, tilled to a depth of two feet and seeded with wheat. After the soil additives decompose (four to five years) the mining segment will be stripped a second time to a depth of 2 to 3 feet. The segment will then be covered with 5 to 6 inches of amendments, tilled to a depth of two feet and seeded with wheat. After the soil additives decompose (four to five years) the mining segment will be stripped a third time to a depth of 2 to 3 feet.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

No erosion is expected to occur as a result of clearing and mining the subject property.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

The proposed mining activities will result in no impervious surfaces.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

No mining activities are proposed in areas susceptible to erosion. The applicant will utilize Best Management Practices to reduce and control any potential erosion in other areas of the property.

a. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Dust and equipment exhaust will be emitted into the air during the extraction of soil from the project site. The applicant will utilize Best Management Practices for dust abatement.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

There are not any off-site sources of emissions or odors that will affect the proposed activities.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Although no significant emissions are expected to occur as a result of the project, the applicant will utilize Best Management Practices to control any significant dust emissions.

3. Water

- a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

There are no natural water bodies on or immediately adjacent to the subject property. The site is bisected from east to west with an irrigation return drain which carries irrigation tail-water.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Some mining activities will occur within 200 feet of irrigation return drain; however, no significant impacts are expected to occur as a result of these activities.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

The proposed activities will not place or remove fill or dredge material from the irrigation return drain located on the property.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

The proposal will not require withdrawals or diversion of surface water, except for that legally allowed by the irrigation district.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

The proposed mining activities are not located within a designated 100-year floodplain.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

The proposal will not result in any discharges of waste material to surface waters.

- b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No groundwater will be withdrawn as part of this proposal. In addition, the proposal will not discharge water into the ground water.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No waste material is expected to be discharged into the ground from the proposed mining activities. The proposal does not include the construction/installation of domestic sewage systems or storage / use of industrial chemicals.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

No runoff is expected to be generated from the proposed activities. The site is bordered by the John Wayne Trail and Interstate 90 which create barriers for excess runoff. There is no current or historic evidence of runoff leaving the project site. Ponds, slews and swales are included in the reclamation plan. Any runoff generated from the proposed activity will be contained on-site.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Because of the type of mining activities contemplated for this project, no waste materials are expected to enter ground or surface waters.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Although no surface, ground or runoff water impacts are anticipated, the applicant will employ Best Management Practices if it becomes necessary.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

- ☒ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
☐ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
☒ shrubs
☒ grass
☒ pasture
☒ crop or grain
☒ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
☐ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

In general, the proposed activities will result in the removal of grasses and shrubs. Revegetation of some areas has already occurred. Additional plantings will be timed to promote growth. Upland areas will be plowed,

seeded with wheat and left for a three year period in order to create a stable root base. After three years, amendments will be spread across the reclaimed area and seeded with a variety of native grass species, shrubs and trees to provide food and cover for wildlife. The revegetation of the riparian areas (i.e. ponds, slews, wetlands, etc.) created through reclamation activities will occur to optimize growth.

- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

There are no known threatened or endangered plant species on or near the site.

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Reclamation activities will include planting of native and agricultural plant species to enhance the habitat value of the riparian and upland areas.

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: **hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds**, other:

mammals: **deer, bear, elk, beaver**, other:

fish: **bass, salmon, trout**, herring, shellfish, other:

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

There are no known threatened or endangered species on or near the site.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The subject property is located within the Pacific Flyway, which is used by a variety of migratory birds. In addition, deer and elk have been seen on the site; therefore it is assumed both species use it for migratory or feeding purposes.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Reclamation activities are focused on enhancing wildlife habitat. Ponds, slews and swales will be created throughout the site. In addition, native plants and agricultural crops will be planted to enhance both the riparian and upland areas.

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

The proposed mining activity will not result in any new energy demands.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

The proposed mining activities will not affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?

List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Because the proposed activity will not require new or expanded energy demands, no energy conservation is proposed.

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

There are no activities proposed which could result in environmental health hazards.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

The proposed project will not require access to any special emergency services. The existing service by the Kittitas County Sheriff's Department and Fire District provide adequate emergency service to the site.

- 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

The proposed activity does not include activities which may result in new environmental health hazards. The applicant will follow Best Management Practices in implementing the mining plan.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Normal noise exists in the project area, including but not limited to, noise from freeway traffic, the Yakima Training Center, on-going agricultural operations, etc.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

The proposed mining activities will utilize heavy equipment to move, remove, load, and pile material on the site. In general, noise from the project site will be limited to daylight hours.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

The proposed activity does not include any activities which create noise above and beyond neighboring land uses; therefore no mitigation is proposed at this time.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Extraction of soil is currently occurring on the subject property. Historically, the subject property was used as range ground for cattle grazing.

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Historically, the subject property was used as range ground for cattle grazing. No agricultural activities currently occur on the subject property.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are no existing structures on the subject property.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No structures will be demolished as part of the proposed project.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The current zoning classification is Agricultural-20, which includes a 20-acre minimum lot size.

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The current comprehensive plan designation for the site is Rural.

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

The subject property is not located within shoreline jurisdiction.

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

No portion of the subject property has been classified as an environmentally sensitive area.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

The proposed activities will not result in anyone living on the subject property. Up to five people will work on the subject property during mineral extraction activities, but no one will work on the property after the completion of the project.

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

The proposed mining activities will not displace any people.

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Because the proposed project will not in any displacement of people, no mitigation measures are proposed.

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

According to the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan, mineral resource activities are an appropriate use in rural areas of the County; therefore, no measures are proposed to ensure compatibility with existing and projected land uses.

9. **Housing**

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

The proposed project does not include the construction of any residential units.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

The proposal does not include the elimination of any residential units.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

The proposed activities do not include construction or elimination of any residential units; therefore, no measures are proposed to reduce or control housing impacts.

10. **Aesthetics**

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The proposal does not include the construction of any structures.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

The proposed mining activities will not result in the alteration or obstruction of any views.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Because no aesthetic impacts are anticipated as a result of the project, no measures have been proposed to reduce or control impacts.

11. **Light and glare**

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

The proposal is not expected to produce light or glare.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Completion of the mining activities will not result in light or glare.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

There are no known existing off-site sources of light or glare that would affect the proposal.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Because the proposed project will not produce light or glare, no measure have been proposed.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

The subject property is adjacent to the "John Wayne Trail". It is assumed some informal recreation occurs on public lands in the area, but no specific activities are known.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

The subject property is privately owned and any existing recreation that occurs on the property is enjoyed by the property owner or his assigns. No other recreation will be displaced by the proposed project.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

The proposal will not impact recreation or recreational opportunities; therefore no measures are proposed.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

The subject property is adjacent to the John Wayne Trail which is an old rail line.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

There are no known archaeological, scientific or cultural landmarks on or next to the site. As indicated earlier, the site is near the John Wayne Trail, which may have some historical value.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

Because the proposed project is not expected to impact historical or cultural resources, no mitigation measures have been proposed. If any archaeological resources are discovered during mineral extraction activities, the proponent will immediately contact the Office of Archaeology and Historical Preservation.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The subject property is accessed via Glover Road, a County road.

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

The subject property is not served by public transit and no public transit exists in Kittitas County.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

The proposal does not include any uses which necessitate parking.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

The proposal does not require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

The proposed project will not occur in the vicinity of water, rail or air transportation.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

The proposed mining activities will result in up to 20 daily trips. Completion of the project will not generate any vehicle trips per day.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

No transportation impacts are expected to occur as a result of the project; therefore, no measures are proposed.

15. Public services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

The proposed activities will not result in an increased need for public services.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

No measures are proposed to reduce or control impacts to public services.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: **electricity**, natural gas, **water**, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

No measures are proposed to reduce or control impacts to public services.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: **electricity**, natural gas, **water**, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

The proposed project does not require any utility service.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: D. d. V. Taylor [Signature]

Date Submitted: 10-13-08 12-29-08

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